

Bucking Bolshevism

BOLSHEVISM is something discussed from the head of the government to the heels of the garbage crew with little or no apparent progress in any direction.

The government recently entered upon a crusade of deportation of alien socialist "reds," but it appears to have pindled out with the shipping of the first boat load. I. W. W.'s are hauled to jail here and there on charges more or less serious and with the usual varying attendant results, but there is a total lack of definite plan or policy or co-ordinate action.

In other words, the Bolsheviki situation seems to be all stirred up, but there it stands. No cake is being baked.

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Bolshevism is something of Russia—a something which is the product of centuries of the autocratic, tyrannical, and inhumanly oppressive rule of the czars and grand dukes and the indescribable system of cruelty of that vast empire. It is something we cannot grasp or understand without complete knowledge of Russian history and personal contact with the proletariat. It is nothing of America, but there appears to exist an affinity between the Soviet and the I. W. W. of this country which bodes no good to democracy.

The soviet is the reaction of the despotism that has ruled the Russias. It is an attempt at rule by the opposite extreme of thought and station in society. There is nothing American about it and it is something to be excluded from thought and discussion as applying to this country, in the discussion of our problems.

The I. W. W. we have with us. Whether it is an importation or a native plant we will not discuss at this time since it will not change the situation. The fact remains that the spirit has grown so strong as to be regarded by many to be a menace.

To remedy evil or disease of the body politic it is as necessary to locate the cause as it is to cure the physical ills. Remove the cause and the disease disappears.

What is the cause of I. W. W.-ism?

Turn to the daily papers. The following appears in current reports from Washington:

Despite the government's wartime appeal for tax payments as a patriotic duty, more than 300,000 firms and individuals failed to make honest returns under the revenue laws in the last two years, the bureau of internal revenue announced tonight. In a six months' drive, which ended February 1, \$19,051,000 in delinquent income and luxury taxes were collected, Commissioner Williams reported.

The amazingly large number of persons who did not respond to the government's appeal has caused treasury officials to consider the delinquent tax payments problem a grave one. A new roundup of alleged delinquents has been instituted to cover the tax period on which returns were made March 15.

Of the total delinquents, 331,386 had not paid any income taxes and an additional 44,260 did not pay the full amount of taxes due. From these two sources approximately \$11,000,000 was collected.

Discovery was made also, the re-

port said, that 164,590 firms had not turned over to the government the entire amount of the so-called luxury taxes on sales and admissions. In some cases firms failed to make any returns of the collections. Internal revenue collectors in all cases forced the delinquents to make good the entire amount, as well as pay a heavy penalty, Mr. Williams said. The bureau estimated that for the present year more than 7,000,000 firms and individuals will pay federal taxes. It is utilizing every avenue of information to check up on "tax slackers".

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This is one of the elements from which the substance of I. W. W.-ism is made.

The tax-slacker is as far from being an admirable citizen as the service-slacker.

It is this same class of business men, who fail to make returns on the profits of their war-time activities that is belittling the A. E. F. and is active in opposition to granting the just claims of those who went to the front. They are fine workers for the I. W. W. camp.

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Contributing causes of I. W. W.-ism are to be found in the innumerable things that lower respect for the law:

Court delays, groundless appeals and unjust decisions;

Unwillingness to abide by the decision of the majority;

Unprincipled methods in business; Dishonorable methods in politics;

The system of education which fitted boys and girls for being nothing but "ladies" and "gentlemen" in imitation of the feudal period instead of equipping them for a useful life-work;

Irresponsibility of influential organizations;

That section of the foreign language press and that element of citizenship which regard everything American with contempt and disdain, and in no wise to be compared with the institutions of their native country.

The easy divorce;

The movement toward the glorified

tenement, the apartment house, with its one room and a bath and paper-bag house-keeping. These and many others. The causes of I. W. W.-ism are all about us! Stop and think and you can see them!

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What is the remedy?

It is as plain as the disease.

Play your part as a citizen squarely! There is good medicine for many things in those seven words. Keep the prescription right with you.

Live up to the Fourth-of-July talk!

This country was started out on the principle of a square deal, and while there has been more or less of palming and second card dealing, the principle stands.

The I. W. W. should be given to understand very clearly, definitely and concisely that this is a republic;

That it was founded as a republic.

That it has been conducted as a republic from July 4, 1776 to the present moment.

That it is the intention of the people of these United States to continue as a republic, as Mr. William J. Bryan would say, "without the aid or consent of any nation on earth."

That it is the aim and object of the people to make this republic the greatest and best the world has known and they positively must not be interfered with.

That the plans and specifications were adopted in the Declaration of Independence and constitution adopted by the continental congress and those plans and specifications will be adhered to as closely as the best mechanics on the job can drop a plumb or lay a square.

That there is no mistake about this. That this is the solemn and determined purpose of the people—not the floss or the dross, not the froth or the foam, not the lees or the dregs, but the real people regardless of occupation, size of pocket-book or color of hair or hide.

That every body is invited and welcomed to turn in and help on the job—to do the best they know how, good intentions covering a multitude of the sins of citizenship, but there must be no standing around and knocking or crabbing the job;

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That preaching sovietism in this republic is just as treasonable as preaching monarchy. We have nothing against sovietism. It may be better than our brand of democracy, but we don't know it, and we propose to let Russia do the demonstrating.

If you don't like this republic and love sovietism, the thing to do is to rush to Russia as soon as possible. It is a big country with plenty of fresh air. There appears to be oodles of room on the political ground floor and unquestionably you will be able to get sovietism to the full extent of your hearts desire—and possibly some more.

Mr. citizen, you who are beginning to see "red," smoke on this awhile:

You are either an American, or you are not. If you are an American show it, sing it, live it, act it, talk it, teach it.

If you are not, sing low, for Uncle Sam is sore.

This may be taken as something of an outline of the subject with which The Northman will subsequently deal in detail. It has many interesting curves, angles and ramifications. The sermons will not be in the language of the classics, but they will be crisp—and possibly sensible.

S. BENSON FOR RESTRICTING FOREIGN PRESS

Writing from Paso Robles, California, Mr. S. Benson, of Portland, voices endorsement of the Americanization stand of Mr. Langoe, as follows:

Mr. H. J. Langoe, Editor Pacific Scandinavian, Portland, Oregon.

My Dear Mr. Langoe: Permit me to congratulate you on your stand on the foreign language question. I would go still further—I would prohibit by law the printing and circulation of foreign language papers in the United States; also the teaching of any foreign language to anyone that has not gone through our grammar school or acquired a fair knowledge of the language of our country.

Very truly yours,
S. BENSON.